

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

**Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board
Cochise Regional Partnership Council**

**Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2009**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First Cochise Regional Partnership Council was held on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 1:00 PM at the Cochise College Benson Center 1025 State Route 90 Benson, AZ 85602.

Council Members Present:

Del Cabarga (telephonically), Vaira Harik, Mary Sue Houser, Dave Howe, Renae Humburg, Jane Strain Melodi Polach (telephonically), and Evelyn Whitmer

Council Members Absent:

Ana Bae-Limb, Ginger Ryan and Nancy-Jean Welker

Others Present:

Melissa Avant, Marla Chamberlain, Carrie Loos, Cristal Martin, Rebecca Drummond, Janette Guerra, Lorna Sedillos, Priscilla Whitlock-Coates, Cindi Coates, and Sarah Laumus

Regional Council Chair Strain welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 1:04 PM. Member Humburg led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of the September, 15, 2009 Meeting and Work Session and the October 12, 2009 Work Session

A motion was made by Chair Strain to approve the minutes of the September, 15, 2009 Meeting and Work Session and the October 12, 2009 Work Session. Seeing no objections, the minutes will be posted as published.

Call to the Public

There was no response to Call to the Public.

Coordination Presentation – Strategy 8

Due to time constraints, the presentation was moved to after Discussion and Approval of 2010 Meeting Dates/Times/Locations.

Discussion and Approval of SFY 2011 Allocations & Strategies

Melissa Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council reviewed with the Regional Council “this is the need to formally declare a conflict of interest prior to discussion and vote. Where there is a conflict, and if the members’ agency has the capacity to apply for any of the strategies they would also need to declare a conflict. In addition, we will only be voting on the strategy and allocation, all details and the further development of the strategies will be completed by the Regional Coordinator and First Things First staff.”

- *Strategy One:* Member Humberg moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve home visitation and include early literacy with an allocation of \$1,119,289. Members Harik and Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recued themselves. Member Polach seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Houser | Yes | Member Humberg | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Polach | Yes | Member Cabarga | Yes |

Motion carried 6:0

- *Strategy Two:* Member Houser moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve two therapists with an allocation of \$350,000. Member Harik seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humberg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

- *Strategy Three:* Member Harik moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve Quality First with five new centers and five new homes with an allocation of \$586,050. Members Houser and Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recued themselves. Member Humberg seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humberg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |

Motion carried 6:0

- *Strategy Four:* Chair Strain, Member Houser and Member Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recued themselves. A quorum was not met and the motion for the Cochise Regional Partnership Council to approve T.E.A.C.H. with fifteen scholars with an allocation of \$62,385 was

tabled for further discussion. Chair Strain made a submission that the board move strategy four to a telephonic meeting.

- Strategy Five:* Chair Strain, Member Howe, Member Harik, Member Houser, Member Polach, and Member Whitmer declared a conflict of interest. Chair Strain reviewed the statutory guidelines related to Rule of Impossibility and informed the Regional Council that when the majority of the Regional Council has a conflict of interest in the voting item, that the Regional Council may use the Rule of Impossibility. The Rule of Impossibility will allow all Regional Council Members to enter into discussion and participate in the voting process: "In the unlikely situation that a public agency cannot act because most of its members have a conflict of interest, members may participate in the agency decision after making known their conflict of interest in the agencies' official records. This is referred to as the Rule of Impossibility. It is important to note that before the rule of impossibility will apply to a multimember board or commission, the majority of the entire membership of the board or commission must be unable to participate because of conflict of interest. The rule of impossibility may not be invoked if merely a quorum of the public body is present and unable to act because of conflicts. In those cases the public agency must reconvene to take up the matter when all members are present." Member Humburg moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve health and nutrition and oral health education with an allocation of \$100,000. Member Cabarga seconded the motion. The Cochise Regional Partnership Council discussed the placement of Oral Health on the First Things First Cochise Regional Allocation FY2011 handout. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

- Strategy Six:* Member Harik moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve mental health with an allocation of \$49,999. Member Whitmer seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

- Strategy Seven:* Member Howe moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve communications with an allocation of \$60,000. Member Harik seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

- *Strategy Eight:* Member Houser moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve coordination with an allocation of \$100,000. Member Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recued herself. Member Humburg seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | | |

Motion carried 7:0

- *Strategy Nine:* Member Harik moved that Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve the new strategy for oral health with an allocation of \$200,000. Member Howe seconded the motion. After discussing the unique target of children birth through five and pregnant mothers, roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

- *Evaluation:* Member Houser moved that Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve evaluation with an allocation of \$50,000. Member Whitmer declared a conflict of interest and recued herself. Member Harik seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | | |

Motion carried 7:0

- *Needs and Assets:* Member Polach moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council approve needs and assets with an allocation of \$10,000. Member Harik declared a conflict of interest and recued herself. Member Howe seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |
| Member Humburg | Yes | | |

Motion carried 7:0

- *Emergency Food Boxes:* Member Whitmer moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council allocate zero funds for emergency food boxes at this time. Member Humburg seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | No | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 7:1

- *Emergency Child Scholarships:* Member Humburg moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council allocate zero funds for emergency child scholarships at this time. Member Howe and Member Houser declared a conflict of interest and recued themselves. Member Polach seconded the motion. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Harik | No | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Humburg | Yes | Member Whitmer | No |

Quorum was not met, motion failed 4:2.

Member Harik moved to discuss emergency child scholarships further. Member Whitmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried

Ms. Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council informed the Regional Council that \$600,000 (\$100,000 allocated by the Regional Council and \$500,000 allocated by First Things First) was allocated to the Emergency Child Care Scholarships in FY2010, with funding to terminate in December 2009. The Regional Council discussed if the child care scholarships are a way to aid those that faculty will be teaching and continuing with child care scholarships to provide assistance and a safe environment to those who cannot attend. Member Whitmer made a motion for the Cochise Regional Partnership Council to approve emergency child scholarships with an allocation of \$100,000 based on a sliding scale fee for parents, with details to be determined at a later time. Member Harik seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any further items to discuss; roll call by vote was taken:

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | No | Member Polach | Yes |
| Member Harik | No | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Humburg | Yes | Member Whitmer | No |

Quorum was not met, motion failed 3:3. The discussion an approval of Emergency Child Care Scholarships was tabled for further discussion until all members were present.

- *Carry Forward:* Vice Chair Howe moved that the Cochise Regional Partnership Council move all excess dollars to the carry forward category. Member Houser seconded the motion. The Regional Council did not have any items to discuss. Roll call by vote was taken.

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|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Cabarga | Yes | Member Humburg | Yes |
| Member Harik | Yes | Member Polach | Yes |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Member Houser | Yes | Chair Strain | Yes |
| Member Howe | Yes | Member Whitmer | Yes |

Motion carried 8:0

Discussion and Approval of 2010 Meeting Dates/Times/Locations

Ms. Avant, Regional Coordinator, Cochise Regional Partnership Council reviewed the 2010 Cochise Regional Partnership Council dates, times, and locations. The meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month at 2:30 PM.

The Regional Council will hold a telephonic meeting regarding Strategy Four and Emergency Child Scholarships will be held on November 4, 2009 at 11:00 am.

Coordination Presentation – Strategy 8

Rebecca Drummond, MA, Program Director for Family Wellness, University of Arizona, College of Public Health presented to the Regional Council on Special Action Groups (SAG) in Southern Arizona, a brief timeline for the Douglas Special Action Group, Border Health Strategic Initiative, special action groups in Yuma and Santa Cruz counties and critical reflection. The Cochise Regional Council discussed concerns regarding measures used in special action groups. Ms. Drummond answered questions on other partnerships and state models and was asked to return with documentation on other sectors that have documentation of organizational collaboration, North Carolina Collaboration Model (Smart Start), Oklahoma Collaboration Model (Smart Start), find what other agencies and collaborations are doing in order to build upon those ideas, and how to incorporate feedback and evaluation in the Cochise region. In addition, a work group will be organized regarding research and coordination

Announcements

Next regular meeting: December 3, 2009 at the Cochise College Benson Center at 2:30pm.

A telephonic meeting is set for November 4, 2009 at 11:00 am.

Community updates: A Chair and Vice Chair meeting to present funding plans to the State Board on December 8, 2009 in Phoenix.


Introduction of new Administrative Assistant, Cristal Martin.

Adjournment

There being no further discussions, Chair Strain adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Submitted By: Cristal Martin
Administrative Assistant

Approved By: 
Chair, Jane Strain